



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

June 23, 2006

News Release

Nine criminally charged with entering U.S. illegally

SIOUX CITY, Iowa — Nine individuals from Mexico and Guatemala were charged Thursday with unlawfully entering the United States following their arrests by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents.

Court documents filed in Sioux City U.S. district court allege that the following persons are illegally present in the United States: Hector Velica-Orozco, 26; Rosa Padilla-Duran, 20; Humberto Deleon-Romo, 35; Eber Arevalo-Grijalva, 25; Juan Rivas-Flores, 32; Celestino Delacruz-Hernandez, 21; Delfido Barrera-Samayoa, 26; Noe Gutierrez-Ulloa, 23; and Rosa Rogue-Labrador, 26. They were arrested June 14 during enforcement actions in Clarion, Iowa, among 27 others who were also arrested at six facilities operated by Iowa Ag LLC/DeCoster Farms of Iowa.

If convicted, the nine defendants face a maximum sentence of six months in prison, and a maximum fine of \$5,000. All defendants appeared June 22 in federal court in Sioux City before Magistrate Judge Paul A. Zoss. They were held without bond. Trial in these cases is set for Aug. 10.

As with any criminal case, a charge is merely an accusation and a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

The cases are being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Michael M. Hobart, Richard Murphy, and Peter Deegan, and are being investigated by ICE special agents from the Des Moines ICE office, with assistance from ICE agents in Cedar Rapids and Sioux City. Twenty-four agents were involved in the June 14 enforcement action.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.